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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,067	08/20/2001	Steve Brandstetter	P/94-1	6703

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WEISS & WEISS
SUITE 305
500 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/933,067

Applicant(s)

BRANDSTETTER ET AL.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Coin Counter and Ticket Dispenser For a Game Machine

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

The abstract submitted by the Applicant does not adequately describe the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: How the number of coins determines that the ticket is generated. Claim 11 depends from claim 1, but only makes sense if it is taken to depend from claim 10. Examiner believes the claim to contain a typographical error and will treat it as if it depends from claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Castellano et al. (US Patent Number 5,477,952).

Claims 1: Castellano teaches a game machine (Col 13, 23). There is a counter for counting the number of coins a player has placed in the machine. (Col 6, 32-36) There is a means (the game machine's display) for showing the player when the ticket will be printed (i.e. when the player wins the game). There is a ticket dispenser (31)

Claim 3: The dispensing unit is placed inside the game machine. (Col 12, 22-28)

Claim 4: The dispensing unit is an add-on to any existing gaming machine and gaming device. (Col 16, 17-20)

Claim 6: The dispensing unit is a self-contained unit that does not affect the play or outcome of the game.

Claim 8: Fig 1 clearly shows four coin slots (21-24) that correspond to different denominations (i.e., nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar).

3. Claims 12-14, 17 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quinn (US Patent Number 3,688,276).

Claim 12: Quinn teaches a game machine (16). The player puts in coins. (Col 4, 38-40) The machine counts the coins and the number of counted coins is shown to the player. (Col 4, 47-50) The number of coins needed for a ticket to be generated in shown to the player. (Col 4, 40-41) A ticket is dispensed when the number of counted coins equals the number of coins needed. (Col 2, 6-12)

Claim 13: The counting the coins is accomplished by counting coin pulses off of the machine's hard meter and the ticket is dispensed base on the number of coins deposited. (Col 2, 6-12)

Claim 14: The ticket is a lottery ticket. (Abstract)

Claim 17: The number of counted coins is set to zero once a ticket is dispensed. (Col 4, 47-50)

Claim 18: Quinn teaches using a remote unit to set the price of the ticket. (Col 1, 64 – Col 2, 16)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bittner et al. (US Patent Number 5,290,033).

Claim 2: Castellano teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Castellano does not, however, teach mounting the device on the side of the game machine. Bittner teaches mounting an analogous device (202) on the side of the gaming machine. Castellano teaches that the device can be used as a retrofit to existing game machines. In cases where the device did not fit within the game cabinet, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have attached the dispensing unit to the gaming machine as a side mounted box in order to retrofit a gaming machine that did not have room inside the gaming machine cabinet.

6. Claims 5 & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano et al. (US Patent Number 5,477,952) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Heidel et al. (US patent Number 5,342,047).

Claim 5: Castellano teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Castellano teaches that the device may be attached to virtually any gaming machine. (Col 16, 17-20) Castellano's invention is intended to detect and prevent fraud. (Abstract) Fraud is a significant problem in the gaming industry. Heidel teaches a game machine that can be

used a number of different games. Heidel illustrates video poker (Fig 1) and video keno (Fig 2b). Video bingo is a well-known equivalent. Video poker, keno, and bingo are all extremely well known in the art. They are extremely popular with many players and, along with reel-type machines, form the backbone of the electronic gaming industry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have applied Castellano's coin tracker to video poker, keno, and bingo machines in order to detect and prevent fraud.

Claim 9: Castellano teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Castellano teaches printing a ticket as a reward, but does not teach that the ticket is a lottery ticket. Heidel teaches dispensing a lottery ticket. (Col 1, 10-18)

7. Claims 7, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castellano as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Piechowiak et al. (US Patent Number 6,012,982).

Claim 7: Castellano teaches the invention substantially as disclosed. Fig 3 shows the counter (12) counting pulses of the game machines hard meter (52). Castellano does not, however, teach awarding the player a bonus based on the number of coins played.

Piechowiak teaches a game that awards a bonus based on a player reaching a certain coin-in threshold. (Abstract) Bonuses are well known to the art and are commonly used to increase player interest. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have awarded the player a bonus based on the number of coins played in order to increase interest in the game.

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Claim 10: Piechowiak teaches linking games so that a combination of devices must have a certain number of coins inserted before a bonus (ticket) is dispensed. (Abstract)

Claim 11: Piechowiak teaches that there is a remote unit (122) for changing the number of coins necessary to generate the ticket.

8. Claims 15 & 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn as applied to claim 12 or 14 in view of the Big Game Lottery.

Claims 15 & 16: Quinn teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Quinn teaches dispensing lottery tickets, but does not go into the mechanics of how lotteries operate. Lotteries operate using well-known principles. The Big Game is merely one of a myriad of examples of lotteries. The winner of lotteries is determined by holding a drawing – i.e., by lot. The size of the lottery jackpot is based on the number of tickets sold. In other words, the bonus prize is based on a percentage of total coins placed into all participating gaming machines. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have chosen the winner of the lottery by a random drawing and to have based the jackpot on a percentage of total coins placed into the gaming machines in order to follow standard practice for running a lottery.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. These are other counters/ticket dispensers or bonus games.

Reference Name	US Patent Number
Schneider et al.	6,358,149
Ock	5,996,765

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Houriet, Jr. et al	5,743,799
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary Examiner, Jessica Harrison can be reached on (703) 308-2217. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



cbc

June 14, 2002



VALENCIA MARTIN-WALLACE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700